VISIT…

MARVEL
RAZORLINE
4
dec
$1.75 U.S
SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF
CLIVE BARKER
HYPERKIND
UNDER THE GUN!
PARAGON JOHN- SAYS THERE ARE NO HEROES, BOYS!
LET'S MAKE IT SO!
DIRECT EDITION
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ONCE, LONG AGO, SUPER HEROES WERE REAL. NOW, THE POWER IS REBORN INTO FOUR PRODUCTS OF THE GRIT AND GLITZ OF HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD: A JOCK, A RICH GIRL, A DRUG ADDICT, AND A CHILD OF THE STREETS. THEY WILL BECOME THE HEROES OF A NEW GENERATION — IF THEY CAN SURVIVE.

HIS NAME IS JOHN DOORE, BUT HIS ENEMIES CALL HIM PARAGON JOHN.
HE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT ENEMIES -- PARTICULARLY THE ONES ONSCREEN BEHIND HIM -- THERMAKK AND THE TWO NEO-PAXIS.
THE NAMES OF THE YOUNG HEROES ARE UNKNOWN -- BUT THEIR POWERS ARE ALL TOO HORRIBLY FAMILIAR TO HIM.
THREE DECADES AGO, PARAGON JOHN DESTROYED THEIR PREDECESSORS, THE PAXIS, AND HE HAS SPENT THE INTERVENING YEARS WIPING OUT THE VERY MEMORY OF THEIR EXISTENCE.
HE WILL NOT LET SO MUCH EFFORT BE IN VAIN.
MISS ARBUCK, I AM AFRAID THAT YOU HAVE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE...
RAGING PARAGON
CREATED BY CLIVE BARKER
story FRED BURKE
pencils PARIS CULLINS
inks HAMILTON, RIGGS & PETRECCA
letters STEVE DUTRO
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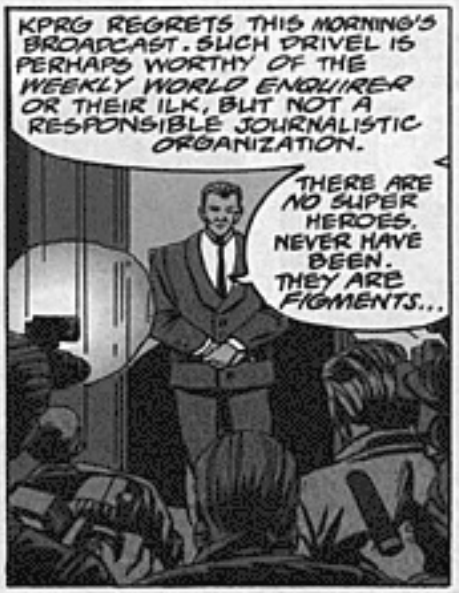
...THIS FOOTAGE YOU BROADCAST THIS MORNING ON KPRG IS...UNACCEPTABLE. COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.
YOU ARE NEW TO THE STATION, NEW TO MY CORPORATION, AND IT MAY SURPRISE YOU JUST HOW INVOLVED I AM IN THE DAY-TO-DAY GOINGS-ON AROUND HERE.
...THIS TIME. IF, IN THE FUTURE, HOWEVER, YOU PUT IMAGES OF SUPER-POWERED BEINGS ON MY AIRWAVES, I WILL NOT BE SO LENIENT. AM I UNDERSTOOD?
BUT MR. DOORE, SIR--THIS IS NEWS! A BATTLE BETWEEN SUCH BEINGS..,
...NO ONE EVEN KNOWS IF THEY'RE FROM EARTH!
NOW GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE A SITUATION FOR THE PARA-CORPS TO HANDLE.
NO, SIR. OF COURSE NOT. GOOD DAY.
IF THESE... CREATURES... RETURN, THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE.
I'LL SEE TO THAT.
THOSE CREATURES MADE MY LIFE A LIVING TORTURE!
GAAK!
THOSE CREATURES SAVED OUR BUTTS FROM THAT JURASSIC PARK REJECT!
HMM. THAT IS TO SAY, THEIR STUNT WRECKLESSLY ENDANGERED LIVES AND PROPERTY. MY ENEMIES ARE YOUR ENEMIES--DO YOU UNDER-STAND? THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PARACORPS!
KRAMER! SEE TO IT THAT THE REST OF THESE "MEN" UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST!
YES, SIR. I ASSUME THAT THE EMERGENCY V GEAR WILL BE REQUIRED?
YES, AND ALL THE FIREPOWER WE CAN MUSTER. NOW IT'S TIME TO FACE THE FALL-OUT.

BUT PARAGON COMMUNICATIONS IS MY LIFE. AND WHAT WE BROADCAST IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO ME.
THAT'S COMMENDABLE, SIR, BUT--
I'M SURE YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD SOME KIND OF SCOOP ON YOUR HANDS, SO THERE WILL BE NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION...

AND NO ONE NEEDS TO KNOW.
WE TAKE CARE OF OUR VIEWERS HERE--PROTECT THEIR... SENSIBILITIES. THAT ATTITUDE HAS MADE US THE LARGEST MEDIA CORPORATION IN THE WORLD. YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO JEOPARDIZE THAT BY EXPOSING THEM TO AN OBVIOUS HOAX, WOULD YOU, MISS ARBUCK?

MR. DOORE--HOW MUCH DAMAGE DID THE PARAGON PICTURES BUILDING SUFFER IN THE RECENT SUPER-VILLAIN ATTACK?
THE FOOTAGE YOU BROADCAST THIS MORNING SHOWED SEVERAL SUPER HEROES FIGHTING OFF A LARGE ALIEN PRESENCE. ANY COMMENT?
AFC
INY


KPRG REGRETS THIS MORNING'S BROADCAST. SUCH DRIVEL IS PERHAPS WORTHY OF THE WEEKLY WORLD ENQUIRER OR THEIR ILK, BUT NOT A RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISTIC ORGANIZATION.
THERE ARE NO SUPER HEROES. NEVER HAVE BEEN. THEY ARE FIGMENTS...

ANY SUCH BEINGS WHO WISH TO PROVE THEIR EXISTENCE CAN SHOW UP HERE, TONIGHT, FOR A LEGITIMATE INTERVIEW.
THAT IS ALL.

LISA MOFFITT MIGHT DISAGREE WITH PARAGON JOHN'S SENTIMENTS--CONSIDERING SHE'S ONE OF THOSE HEROIC "FIGMENTS" CODE-NAMED ARMATA.
SO THE NEWSREEL ARCHIVES COULDN'T HELP WITH YOUR SCHOOLWORK?
NO, BUT THANKS FOR USING YOUR CLOUT TO GET ME INTO THE PARAGON PICTURES FILM FILES, DADDY.
THE ONLY PAXIS THEY'D HEARD OF WAS AN OLD MOVIE SERIAL--JUST FICTION...
MAKE SURE YA BURN MY MACARONI, MOM...
MOM, DAD--YOU'RE SURE YOU NEVER HEARD OF A BAND OF SUPER HEROES WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II?
SUPER HEROES? I SWEAR, WHAT NONSENSE WILL YOU THINK OF NEXT?
PAXIS. THEY WERE CALLED PAXIS...
SORT OF LIKE MY PARAGON BOYGAME HERE...
...SEE--IT'S ABOUT THESE PAXTER DUDES WHO WANT TO DESTROY THE WORLD. I'VE KILLED ALL BUT ONE...
BOYGAME
WELL, I THINK YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH RESEARCH FOR NOW, LISA. BEST TO STAY AWAY FROM THE FILES FOR THE TIME BEING.
ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THE EXCITEMENT DOWN AT MY OFFICE, LATELY.
...ISSUED A CHALLENGE TO THE SUPER BEINGS TO SHOW THEMSELVES TONIGHT FOR AN INTERVIEW.
NEXT UP ON KNEX EVENING NEWS FORUM, WE'LL REPLAY THE SCENES OF CARNAGE AT THE PARAGON BUILDING IN HOLLYWOOD...
THAT'S FUNNY! THEY'VE GONE OFF THE AIR...
...AND I WAS HOPING TO GET A LOOK AT THE CREEPS WHO WRECKED MY FAVORITE FOUNTAIN!

BUT KNEX HAS NOT CEASED BROADCASTING VOLUNTARILY...
THAT FOOTAGE IS PARAGON PROPERTY, MR. DUANE! AND I HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PATIENCE TO GET AN INJUNCTION...
ZZZZZAAAASSSHHH
YWOOD
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! THE FIRST AMENDMENT! THE FCC! I'VE GOT RIGHTS!
AND I'VE GOT POWER...
...YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE VIOLATED MY COPYRIGHT, MR. DUANE.
AND I PROMISE YOU... IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
CHK
GET ME OFF, WILL YOU DOOFUS? YOU CAN'T--
THE VIDEOTAPES! SOMEHOW ERASING...!
HOW CAN HE--
AAAGH!
FWUMP

PACIFIC PALISADES, WHERE KENNY ZAMBETTI AND DYAN DIVINE HAVE TROUBLES OF THEIR OWN--AS IF HIDING THEIR NEW IDENTITIES AS HYPERKIND LOGIX AND BLISS WEREN'T ENOUGH...
BUT, KENNY! I CAN'T GO IN THERE! WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?!
WHAT ABOUT THEM?!
I'M ALLOWED TO HAVE FRIENDS, DYAN!
IT'S JUST--WELL...I'M NOT THE KIND OF GIRL YOU TAKE HOME TO MEET YOUR FOLKS...
DYAN--JUST DO IT FOR ME! IF YOU'RE THERE, MAYBE DAD WON'T JUMP DOWN MY THROAT FOR MESSING UP HIS COMPUTER FILES...*
* LAST ISSUE. --MARC
HI, DAD! I UH...
THERE WAS TROUBLE AT THE PARAGON PICTURES BUILDING LAST NIGHT, SON. WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
IT WASN'T THAT BIG A DEAL, DAD...
I'VE WARNED YOU ABOUT THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO HANG OUT IN HOLLYWOOD!
PARAGON PICTURES--THAT'S WHERE YOU AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND LISA WERE MEETING...?
SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND, DAD...
OH, I--I SEE, WELL... MAYBE THAT'S FOR THE BEST...
DAD, OUR BREAK-UP HAD NOTHIN' TO DO WITH THAT! ANYWAYS, I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT--
HEY!
CHECK IT OUT! GEORGE ON TV--BIGGER THAN LIFE!
SURE, I SAW IT! THOSE SUPER-DUDES WERE FIGHTIN' OFF SOME KIND OF KILLER CROCODILE MAN!
DONUT
KENNY, ISN'T THAT YOUR STREET-PUNK FRIEND?
YEAH, HE SORT OF... INTRODUCED KENNY AND ME...

"...AND MAYBE STARTED SOMETHING THAT'S TURNED INTO A WHOLE LOT MORE!"
DO YOU THINK THIS IS ALL A DELUSION, OR WILL SOMETHING RESPOND TO PARAGON CEO JOHN DOORE'S CHALLENGE, AND COME TO KPRG FOR AN INTERVIEW?
STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, EH, CARLOS?
WE?
MAYBE PARAGON PICTURES COULD DO A MOVIE--CALL IT HYPERKIND OR SOMETHIN'! WE'D LOVE THAT!
UH, YEAH-- WE COMICS FANS, I MEAN!
UM, I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO...
I THINK SO TOO, GEORGE! YOU ALMOST BLEW ALL OUR SECRETS!
THERMAKK MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT, DYAN -- I THINK WE'RE IN OVER OUR HEADS.
OH, KENNY-- WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?!
ABOUT JOHN DOORE'S CHALLENGE-- OR ABOUT US...?
I DON'T THINK THERE SHOULD BE ANY US... YOU DESERVE A NICE GIRL...
...LIKE LISA...
YOU LET ME WORRY ABOUT WHAT I DESERVE, DYAN. I DON'T CARE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU IN THE PAST--HOW YOU'VE HAD TO EARN A LIVING...
...BUT WITH THE POWER WE'VE GAINED AS HYPERKIND, WE GOT A CHANCE AT A NEW FUTURE.
AND WHO KNOWS, MAYBE I'LL GET TO WORRY A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT YOU DESERVE, TOO...
...BUT FOR NOW, WE'D BETTER MEET WITH THE OTHERS. WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT!
QUIETLY, THEY EXCHANGE THE STRANGE OHO KEYS WHICH HAVE ALTERED THEIR LIVES FOREVER...
I'LL DO YOURS IF YOU DO MINE...
CHAK

MAYBE PARAGON PICTURES COULD DO A MOVIE -- CALL IT HYPERKIND OR SOMETHIN'...
NOW THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR! FLOWERS FOR MISS ARBUCK...
...AND PRODUCTION HAS GOT TWO WEEKS TO HAVE A SCRIPT ON MY DESK!
"HYPER-KIND." IT'S A GREAT TITLE. WE MAY JUST TURN THIS LITTLE DEBACLE INTO A GOLD MINE!
I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT, SIR!
AND STOP THESE INSECTS FROM RUINING MY CAREFULLY LAID PLANS!
A CITY OFFICIAL ON LINE ONE, MR. DOORE.
CHIK
HELLO...?
NO, EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL HERE.
THANKS FOR THE CONCERN, BUT NO, MY OWN STAFF IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE -- AFTER ALL, WHO SENT A SQUAD TO PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS DURING LAST YEAR'S RIOTS?
YES. IF YOU CAN KEEP L.A.'S FINEST OUT OF IT, THERE WILL BE A NICE CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR RE-ELECTION FUND...
LATER.
SIR, THE TROOPS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE BLOB-THING THAT ATTACKED THE SOUTHERN CITADEL...*
...ONE OF THE MEN WAS KILLED.
A FREAK STORM IS OF NO CONCERN, KRAMER -- THESE SUPER-POWERED MEDDLERS ARE!
AND IF THESE MONSTERS RISE UP TO TAKE THE BAIT --
-- WE'LL BE READY TO REEL THEM IN!
*LAST ISH, AGAIN.-- MARC

SIR, THIS GAS FORMULA -- I DON'T SEE HOW IT CAN BE USED TO CAMOUFLAGE YOUR ACTIONS. THE SMOKE ISN'T DENSE ENOUGH, AND THIS FORMULA MAY CONTAIN SOME KIND OF MIND-CONTROL DRUG!
I'M SORRY THAT YOU DON'T LIKE IT...
...EVEN SORRIER THAT YOU FELT OBLIGED TO ANALYZE MY FORMULA...
...BUT THEN I ENCOURAGE INITIATIVE--
--SUCH AS THAT DISPLAYED BY THE INVENTOR OF THIS CANE! IT ALTERS THE PULL OF THE EARTH'S GRAVITY ON IT, VARYING ITS OWN WEIGHT FROM TEN POUNDS--
--TO OVER TWO HUNDRED!
OH MY LORD!
FWICK
AS FOR THE GAS, THAT WAS AN INNOVATION OF MY OWN DESIGN-- CREATING THE ZONA WHICH CAN REMOVE INDEPENDENT THOUGHT FROM OTHER LIVING CREATURES!
I DESTROYED THE PAXIS ONCE-- AND I WILL NOT SEE THAT VICTORY TARNISHED!
FSSSHHH
KOFF KOFF
WHILE YOU, GENTLEMEN, WILL FORGET THIS EVER HAPPENED!
FSSSSS
WH-WHA'S HAP'NIN'?
WITH HIS MEN OUT COLD, PARAGON JOHN DISPOSES OF THE EVIDENCE...
...RETURNING TO FIND THE SLATE WIPED CLEAN!
I THINK MY NEW WEAPONS WILL SERVE ME WELL TODAY!
POSITIONS, MEN!
WE'VE A RECEPTION COMMITTEE TO PREPARE...

IN THE PAXIS LABORATORY, HIDDEN BENEATH HOLLYWOOD'S ABANDONED HELIOPOLIS CINEMA...
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S LOGICAL OR NOT! ESCHBACHER GAVE ME THESE POWERS, AND I SAY WE ANSWER MR. POORE'S CHALLENGE!
THE WHOLE REASON WE TOOK AND KEPT THESE POWERS WAS TO BRING HEROES BACK TO EARTH. WE HAVE TO PROVE OURSELVES...
BUT THAT FETUS-THINGY WE FOUGHT HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE PARAGON BUILDING--
...FOUR NEW HEROES REVISIT THE SITE OF THEIR TRANSFORMATION!
--HOMING PIGEON STYLE...
...THAT PARAGON JOHN GUY SCARES ME... SOMEHOW, HE'S RESPONSIBLE!
IT'S A TRAP! THE COMPUTER VIRUS THAT WIPES OUT ANY MENTION OF PAXIS LED ME ON A DANGEROUS CHASE RIGHT TO THE PARAGON HISTORICAL TRUST!
BUSSY'S RIGHT! REMEMBER, THEY TOLD YOU THE PAXIS WAS JUST A MOVIE SERIAL...
SO NOW HE CHALLENGES US TO PROVE OUR EXISTENCE WHEN HE'S JUST SHOWN US ON THE MORNING NEWS?
IT'S CLEARLY A TRAP--
--AND YOU'RE NOT FIT TO MAKE THESE KINDS OF DECISIONS.
MY POWER MAKES ME THE SMART CHOICE TO LEAD US, LISA...
I'M ARMATA NOW--GET IT?
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN HANDLE USING CODE NAMES, LOGIX, THEN YOU SHOULD GIVE UP YOUR POWER NOW AND GO BACK TO BEING A DO-NOTHING...
BLOOP
WELL I GUESS GOD JUST DIED AND LEFT YOU QUEEN, EH, HOT-SHOT?
Y'KNOW, BLISS--IF YOU EVER WANT TO TRADE POWERS, YOU JUST LET ME KNOW!

FOR NOW, THOUGH-- JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN!
BLISS, DROP THE ILLUSION FAST, OR THE FEEDBACK WILL--!
I MAY NOT BE UP TO WINNING ANY JUDGMENT OF PARIS, BUT OL' GEORGE HAS YOU ALL BEAT ON STREETSMARTS.
I THINK THE BEAST SHOULD BE CROWNED PAXIS LEADER...
VERY FASHIONABLE.
...AND THE FIRST THING I'D DO IS FIND SOMEONE FOR THIS FIFTH POWER--
--BEFORE THERMAKK COMES BACK TO TAKE IT!
WELL, IF LOGIX HADN'T BROKEN THE QUO COMPUTER, I'D TAKE THE POWER MYSELF!
AS IT IS, THE SARCOPHAGAI RE-BUILT US FROM SCRATCH, LAST TIME. ANOTHER RUN-THROUGH, WITHOUT THE COMPUTER, WE MIGHT NOT BE SO LUCKY! FOR NOW, REGARDLESS OF WHO'S THE LEADER, WE'VE GOT TO MAKE OUR NEXT MOVE, AND WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT TOGETHER!
MY PARENTS HADN'T EVEN HEARD OF PAXIS, AND MY LITTLE BROTHER HAS A VIDEO GAME IN WHICH THE PAXIS ARE KILLERS!
WHY, THAT'S HORRIBLE!
WE HAVE TO SHOW THEM THAT WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT! C'MON, KENNY--I MEAN LOGIX!
SO AMOKK... I GUESS YOU WANT TO WALK INTO THE TRAP, TOO?
YOU BET, DUDE--NOBODY QUESTIONS MY EXISTENCE AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

"ESPECIALLY NOT SOME CORPORATE GEEZER! WHATEVER HE'S DISHIN' OUT, WE CAN SHOVEL BACK IN SPADES!"
TWO BLOCKS AWAY, AT THE PARAGON PICTURES BUILDING, THE "CORPORATE GEEZER" SETS THE STAGE FOR HIS HYPERKIND HOAX...
LIGHTS... CAMERA...
...ACTION!
OKAY, NON-BELIEVERS-- WE'RE HERE!
SO DON'T GIVE US ANY FLACK!

FLACK IS THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES, CHILDREN!
THESE ARE THE PARACORPS--
--AND THEY'VE BEEN ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU!
UH-OH-- LOOKS LIKE WE'VE STUMBLED INTO THE BLIND PATE FROM HECK!

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST!
RUN ALONG HOME IF YOU WANT, BRAIN-BOY --BUT I'M NOT LETTIN' THESE GUYS OPEN FIRE ON ME! NOT WHILE THESE RAZOR-HANDS LET ME PLAY BULLETS AND BRACELETS!
PING
ZING
SOMETHING'S JAMMING OUR TRANSMISSION! WE'VE GOT THE STORY OF THE CENTURY-- AND WE CAN'T GET IT TO THE NETWORKS!
LOGIX--WE AIN'T GOT A CHOICE! BUT TO FIGHT HERE! IF WE PULL BACK AN' THEY CHASE US, WE'LL ENDANGER INNOCENT CIVILIANS!
I'M PRETTY INNOCENT MYSELF!
BESIDES, YOU DON'T FOOL ME WITH YOUR RATIONALIZATION! YOU LOVE THIS!
RUN 'M DOWN!
WELL I'M GOIN' WITH MY INSTINCTS--
SKREE
ZING
--AND THEY TELL ME IT'S TIME TO RUN AMOK!
BLAM
PING
GET OUT! IT'S SET TO EXPLODE!
BLAM

BLAM
BLAM
KABOOSH
ROWR!
SHAKT
I KNEW IT WAS A TRAP!
WAIT! THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND! WE DIDN'T MEAN TO MESS UP THEIR BUILDING!

ARMATA! NO!
JUST LET US EXPLAIN!
BUT OF COURSE...
OPEN FIRE!
BLAM
BLAM
MR. DOORE -- --HE'S MY DAD'S BOSS! WHY IS HE DOING THIS?
ZZZASH
HANG ON WHILE I LASER-SCAN THE SITUATION! MAYBE I CAN GET SOME CLUES!
BLAM
BLAM
WHAT ARE THEY PUTTING...
THERE MUST BE TWO HUNDRED OF THEM! I--
BLAM
FWAP
WHAP
...GAS MASKS! GOT TO PROTECT THE OTHERS!

PUT THESE ON QUICK!
BLISS--MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE DUPLICATES OF THE REST OF US... SOMEHOW EVEN THE ODDS!
AMOKK--
I CAN HANDLE MYSELF, MAN!
I DON'T NEED YOU TO THINK FOR ME!
BLAM
BLAM
FWOOP
BLAM
BLAM
FSHHHHHHHH
SOME KINDA GAS...
WHUD
....P-POPPIES...
NO! DON'T BREATHE IT!
JOOM

ZACKLE
AIEE!
SHAP
EMERGENCY V GEAR ENGAGED!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME NOW!
AN ARMY OF HYPERKIND--
--COMIN' RIGHT UP!
THAT SHOULD DISTRACT THEM WHILE I PULL OUT MY HEAVY ARTILLERY!
UNFORTUNATELY, PARAGON JOHN IS QUICKER ON THE DRAW!
WE'VE GOT THEM, MEN!
KABOOSH
KABOOSH
ARMATA! THANK GOD SHE'S STILL STANDING...!
BANANG

SHE MAY NOT BE FOR LONG. AND AS JOHN'S TANK CLOSES IN ON ARMATA, BLISS REELS BACK IN PAIN--
KABWOOSH
--THE ONSLAUGHT AGAINST HER DREAMSTUFF DOUBLES SENDING AN AGONY OF PSYCHIC FEEDBACK COURSING THROUGH HER!
...LET YOU... ALL DOWN...
I... I CAN'T HOLD ON... ! I... SO SORRY...
SHE'S OUT.
GET THE HELMET ON HER-- PRONTO!

THREE DOWN--ONE TO GO!
REEE
CORNERED! IT'S LIKE THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT OUR WEAKNESSES ARE!
CHOOM
MY ARMS-- TRAPPED AT MY SIDES!
KATOK
IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS--IT CAN'T!
OH, BUT IT CAN...
RMRMMRM
BUT WE'RE...
...THE HEROES!
YAAAH!
KABOOSH
FOOLISH GIRL! THERE ARE NO HEROES...

...THERE IS ONLY...
...PARAGON JOHN!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
NEXT ISSUE:
THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MISSING HISTORY OF PAXIS IS REVEALED! BE HERE FOR UNDER PRESSURE!

Please send all correspondence to:
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HYPERKIND

Marc McLaurin

the hard line

It's almost an unspoken law in comics that the better a project is, inevitably, the longer it will take to complete. It's more a curse than a law, really. But by that law, the RAZORLINE imprint, as a quality driven line, should be almost impossible to achieve, and more difficult to maintain.

Okay, so it *is* difficult. But we wouldn't be doing it if it wasn't. So far on this line we've dealt with more miniature crises than most Middle Eastern countries, and still managed to turn out a product we're overwhelmingly proud of.

And by your response, it's paying off. Issues with this imprint are among the most difficult to find, across the country. But because the space left by a sold-out Razorline comic isn't empty for long, this fact is slow to be realized by some retailers. (Special thanks to those of you who have let them know.)

the great change

At a speech by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the master playwright and songwriter gave a bit of invaluable advice.

"Change something," he said.

We deal with more things on this line because we dare to say, "this is how it's *been* done; let's change it. Let's learn, and do it better." In this spirit, we'll experiment from time to time. Sometimes those experiments will be spectacular successes, and sometimes they'll be spectacular failures — but they'll always be spectacular.

Let us know what you think.

Fred Burke

The fax machine has been buzzing since our first issue hit the stands —

that is, before the issue vanished in two days flat. You lucky folks who grabbed the first printing of #1 have got a double-bag item on hand. . . and we appreciate your enthusiasm and your fan mail.

Speaking of which, the aforementioned fax is the Hyperkind creative team's main method of sharing your comments. From our editor Marc McLaurin (who reads every word), your fan mail is faxed to the Los Angeles offices of the Barkerverse Godhead, Clive himself. After Clive reads it, it's passed on to our consulting editor, Malcolm Smith, who calls me at home. "More fan mail, Fred," he says. "What'll you give me for it?"

"I'll type up the letter column."

So here I am. Now let's check out why...

Barkerverse Boys,

All right, I admit it. I wasn't going to buy this book. Sure, Clive Barker writes tremendous novels and his movies are bizarre masterpieces, but comic books are a whole different thing. But as fate would have it, I had some extra cash and the enhanced cover to Hyperkind #1 really caught my eye (sometimes those fancy covers do work). So I took a chance. Boy, did it pay off!

I love the mystique this book exudes. Where did the power come from and why does Thermakk want it back so desperately? How did Eschbacher get the power in the first place? What happened to the original Paxis and why doesn't anybody remember them? I can't wait for these questions to be answered. I can tell the Hyperkind have a rich history to be told, and Clive Barker and Fred Burke are just the twisted individuals to do it.

As to the Neo-Paxis, they are visually stunning. Paris Cullins and Bob Petrecca are explosive together. Hyperkind has a very Barkeresque look to it (no small compliment!). Lisa, Kenny, George, and Dyan aren't your average teen super team.

Overall, Hyperkind reads like mythology in the making. Needless to say, I'm into this book for the long haul — it's that good already.

Don Massi
590 Lower Landing Rd. #213
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We're glad to have you here, Don, for what will be a very long haul, indeed! We've got enough stories to fill Razorline books into the 21st Century — and beyond! Of course, the Barkerverse isn't just "boys," with some of our strongest talent (and greatest characters) being "girls." Now if only some of our female fans will drop us a line!

Slowly but surely in the months ahead, we'll be answering the questions you posed (some in our very next issue, in fact!). But we'll always be introducing new mysteries about our Paxis, their powers, and their pasts. And if you're feeling lost in the Decamundi, don't worry — it looks like all our Razorline books will be crossing over around issues #10 and #11. One of our heroes is bound to find you — if some villain doesn't capture you first!

Dear Razorline,

I just finished reading Ectokid and Hyperkind, then I spent another twenty minutes staring into those dynamic covers. I have to say, it blew my mind. I'm hooked, and it didn't take Pinhead to do it. Looks like you have yet another mega-hit for Marvel. I'm eagerly awaiting the release of Saint Sinner and Hokum & Hex.

Now for a few comments: keep Steve Skroce at all costs — this guy is great. Paris [Cullins] seems to be a Jim Lee study, and I like his stuff, too. The stories are moving along at just the right speed. I also appreciate the high quality paper and cover (of course!).

The only negative thing was the short versions of the other Razorline titles at the end of each book. Couldn't you have just given us a little more? Well, thank you for a great new line-up. Keep up the good work!

Eric C. Graham
63 Melrose Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94131

Nice to have a letter from my old stomping grounds, Eric. I'm glad to hear the California contingent has chosen our first issue covers for new mind-expanding rituals. If there's anyone out there who hasn't sampled Steve Skroce and Bob Dvorak's dynamic work on Ectokid — what's taking you so long?! This month, Dex gains a new scribe, Larry Wachowski, whose evocative handling of the Hellraiser mythos bodes well for the Ectosphere.

Marvel has a new Pinhead series debuting this month for mature audiences, plus the code-approved hair-raising adventures of the Harrowers (a great new title written by the aforementioned Malcolm Smith. Will you please send me more fan mail now, thank you!). We hope you'll stay hooked to the Barkerverse titles — these new Hellraiser books included. (Read that last sentence carefully, continuity-buffs. It says a mouthful!)

Keep our fax machines humming, fandom. . .we're really out here listening! And if you haven't already discovered the madcap, cosmos-spanning action of Hokum & Hex, then get started pronto — Trip Monroe will be meeting the Hyperkind sooner than you might imagine!

— Fred Burke

NEXT:

The power of Paragon John! Plus, the most-asked Razorline question of the decade is answered (sort of) as we reveal the status of the fifth power!!

CUTTING EDGE ALERT!
Next week in ECTOKID #4:

Dex asks himself "Are the brothers my keeper?" as he comes face to face with the Brothers Augustine — with his mother's life at stake! This issue we reveal Dex's amazing new power!

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

HOKUM & HEX #4:

Earth's champion is thrown in jail! And when the greatest hero of a bygone age turns up to the rescue, Trip Munroe will find himself freed, whether he wants it or not! Don't miss the tragic return of the incredible Z-Man!

SAINT SINNER #4:

Called tragically back to Earth on unfinished business, the Saint Sinner is confronted by an undying evil loose in the Hudson river and on a Madison Avenue gone amok!